

SENATE BILL 1549

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33,
relative to mental health and developmental
disabilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-1-101(17), is amended by deleting the semi-colon at the end of that subdivision and by substituting instead the following language: “. A person who demonstrates the substantial limitations in functioning outlined in this subdivision (17) has demonstrated mental retardation for the purposes of this title, regardless of whether that person has received a formal diagnosis of mental retardation from a health care professional;”.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-1-101(22), is amended by deleting the semi-colon at the end of that subdivision and by substituting instead the following language: “. A diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorder meets the definition of “severe, chronic disability” and shall entitle such person to access all of the services and programs provided by the department;”.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.